

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /084 W
----- 071562

R 070147Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4364

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AS, FJ

SUBJ: MR. PHILIP CAIRNS AND FIJI CONNECTION

REF: SUVA 725

1. SUMMARY: FOL IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN MELBOURNE AGE OF JULY 4 ON VISIT OF PHILIP CAIRNS, SON OF FORMER AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER J.F. CAIRNS, TO FIJI. AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, THIS IS ONLY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO VISIT BY PHILIP CAIRNS TO FIJI. THE FIJI CONNECTION HAS SO FAR ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION OF CONTROVERSY OVER FOREIGN LOAN AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE COMPLEX AND FREQUENTLY CONFUSING DETAIL CONCERNING THE CURRENT FOREIGN LOANS CONTROVERSY IN AUSTRALIA, THERE HAS BEEN ONLY LIMITED ATTENTION GIVEN TO PHILIP CAIRNS' TRIP TO FIJI IN MAY, 1975. ARTICLE IN MELBOURNE AGE OF JULY 4 GIVES AS MUCH DETAIL AS EMBASSY HAS ON MATTER (TEXT FOLLOWS).

3. QTE. A VISIT TO FIJI IN MAY BY MR. PHILIP CAIRNS LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION HE WAS ACTING WITH THE APPROVAL
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OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, A FIJI GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

SAID HERE TODAY.

4. QTE. THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION (RATU DAVID TOGANIVALU) SAID CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FIJI GOVERNMENT AND MR. CAIRNS SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT HIS VISIT WAS INNER QTE OFFICIAL END INNER QTE.

5. QTE. THERE WAS A INNER QTE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS ACTING WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, END INNER QTE RATU DAVID'S STATEMENT SAID.

6. QTE THE FIJI GOVERNMENT LATER WAS ADVISED THAT THE VISIT HAD NO OFFICIAL SANCTION, HE SAID.

7. QTE HE SAID: INNER QTE IN LATE APRIL THIS YEAR ADVICE WAS RECEIVED THROUGH THE FIJI HIGH COMMISSION IN CANBERRA THAT ARAB REPRESENTATIVES MR. S. NASSAR AND GENERAL M. GALAL WISHED TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH FIJI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN FIJI.

8. INNER QTE IT WAS INTIMATED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. PHILIP CAIRNS, WHO WAS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE THEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, DR. JIM CAIRNS.

9. INNER QTE THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE WAS ADVISED THAT MR. CAIRNS' VISIT WAS OFFICIAL. END INNER QTE.

10. QTE TALKS WERE HELD IN SUVA ON MAY 7 AND 8 BETWEEN GENERAL GALAL, MR. CAIRNS, MR. IAN RICHARDSON, REPRESENTING RAWIA INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIL) PTY. LTD. AND FIJI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS.

1. QTE MR. NASSAR DID NOT ARRIVE.

12. QTE RATU DAVID SAID THE TALKS WERE PURELY EXPLORATORY, COVERING MATTERS SUCH AS POSSIBLE OIL AND SUGAR REFINERIES AND DIRECT LOAN INVESTMENT.

13. INNER QTE NO REQUEST WAS MADE BY FIJI OFFICIALS AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TALKS FOR ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OR FINANCIAL AID, END INNER QTE HE SAID.

14. INNER QTE IT SEEMS THAT RAWIA INTERNATIONAL COMPRISES BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND MIDDLE EAST SHAREHOLDERS AND THAT IT IS ESSENTIALLY AN ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPANY. END INNER QTE.

15. QTE RATU DAVID SAID THAT AT NO STAGE DID THE COMPANY

SEEK FROM THE FIJI GOVERNMENT ANY BROKERAGE, COMMISSION OR OTHER FEE, NOR HAD ANY SUCH SUGGESTION BEEN MADE BY MR. CAIRNS.

16. INNER QTE THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE ARE BY NO MEANS UNUSUAL, END INNER QTE RATU DAVID SAID.

17. INNER QTE THEY NOW APPEAR CURIOUS ONLY BECAUSE OF MR. CAIRNS' SOMEWHAT AMBIVALENT POSITION. END INNER QTE

18. QTE A LETTER FROM THE FIJI SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DATED JUNE 6, WAS ADDRESSED TO MR. CAIRNS IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, RATU DAVID SAID.

19. QTE THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM HIM ON MAY 19, SIGNED BY HIM AS PRIVATE SECRETARY, THANKING THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE INNER QTE MOST SINCERELY ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY MINISTER, DR. CAIRNS, FOR YOUR KINDNESS DURING THE VISIT JUST COMPLETED. END INNER QTE

20. QTE A STATEMENT HERE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION TODAY SAID MR. CAIRNS WAS ACTING IN A INNER QTE PURELY PRIVATE CAPACITY END INNER QTE AND HAD INNER QTE NO AUTHORITY WHAT-SOEVER FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI. END INNER QTE END QTE.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, VISITS, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER04364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0448
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750778/aaaacrys.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SUVA 725
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR. PHILIP CAIRNS AND FIJI CONNECTION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, OTRA, AS, FJ, (CAIRNS, PHILIP)
To: SUVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006